

## **Recycling and Refuse Management Committee Minutes**

**Oct. 11, 2007**

**Present:** Susan Waite, Recycling Coordinator; Marianne Lorenzelli; Clare Bertrand; Meg Vickery; Harvey Allen; Lucy McMurrer.

### **Updates:**

The August minutes were approved without changes.

Susan relayed that the Sustainable Energy Fair was a big success. We distributed 21 water conservation packets and follow-up surveys were completed. Our booth was perhaps the most frequented of all.

There will be an Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Conference with 150 providers on October 30. Marianne and Susan will try to attend.

### **Bottle Battle:**

Susan distributed business recycling stickers and a spreadsheet to committee members, asking us to visit various Amherst businesses and pass out the stickers. The more visible they are, the more powerful they'll be.

### **MassRecycle:**

MassRecycle campaign for paper recycling has begun. 1.5-2 million tons of paper in Massachusetts is not recycled each year. Nov. 15 the campaign kick off and the committee voted unanimously to recommend the town of Amherst signs the MassRecycle resolution to educate, encourage, and be role models regarding paper recycling. The committee's recommendation will go to Town Hall to get in the Select Board's packet before the next Select Board meeting.

### **Plastic Bag Recycling:**

The Springfield MRF is working on creating plastic bag recycling programs. Food contamination has historically been an issue with this but MRF wants to train and educate the community, hoping that that will decrease problems. The committee needs to show support for this initiative.

### **Amherst Schools:**

Susan and Lucy presented the letter they wrote to the School Committee urging them to consider waste reduction in the food service RFP. Minor edits were suggested. Susan will make the corrections and get Pat and Meg's signature. Lucy will get all the South Amherst committee members to sign it so that it can be mailed as soon as possible. When school buildings are renovated, there should be a focus on the kitchens and appliances (e.g. dishwashers) updated to help reduce waste.

### **Amherst Trash Haulers:**

The Board of Health meets 10/18, but we missed the cutoff for getting on their agenda. A subcommittee of Meg, Lucy, Marianne, and Susan will work on getting on their November agenda. Town by-laws aren't being abided by, committee goals aren't being met, the agreement trash haulers sign needs to be changed.

### **New Membership:**

Pat requested this discussion item and in her absence it was not discussed at length. Pat is considering changes and we are still down another member on the committee. We will add this to next month's agenda.

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The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, Nov. 8, at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucy McMurrer  
Recycling and Refuse Management Committee member